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TAGS: [IT](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: CORRECTED COPY: INITIATION OF HOST NATION  
CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. AFRICA  
COMMAND (USAFRICOM) ARMY AND NAVY COMPONENT HEADQUARTERS  
IN ITALY

REF: STATE 80262

Classified By: EUR ACTING DAS GARY ROBBINS FOR REASONS 1.4 (A) and (D)

[¶1.](#) (C//REL ITA) This is a corrected copy of State 80262. The final talking point in Para 9 has been changed to reflect that the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe will be dual, vice triple-hatted.

[¶2.](#) (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 3 for requested action and paragraph 9 for suggested talking points.

[¶3.](#) (C//REL ITA) SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: Post is requested to initiate consultations with Italy at the appropriate time and level, regarding the establishment of USAFRICOM Army and Navy component headquarters elements. Background information on all of USAFRICOM's service components, to include the special operations component, is also provided in this cable. END SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST.

[¶4.](#) (C// REL ITA) USAFRICOM BACKGROUND: USAFRICOM's establishment is a Presidential-directed DoD re-organization that reflects the growing importance of a holistic approach to African security affairs. USAFRICOM will be oriented primarily toward enhancing U.S. security cooperation with African partners, although it will have the capability to conduct military operations if directed to do so. USAFRICOM will support broader interagency, international and multinational efforts, where appropriate. To facilitate integration of USAFRICOM's activities with those of the U.S. Government and international partners, USAFRICOM is adopting a unique command structure that embeds employees from other U.S. Departments and Agencies into USAFRICOM as dual-appointed employees of both DoD and their home office.

[¶5.](#) (C// REL ITA) DoD will be re-organizing U.S. forces in Europe in order to establish USAFRICOM service components. For Italy, this cable includes points on establishing USAFRICOM's Army and Navy component command Headquarters. Although no decision has been made on a permanent AFRICOM headquarters location, USAFRICOM component HQs must be established on an accelerated timeline to provide support to USAFRICOM as it approaches its 30 September 2008 deadline for being at Full Operational Capability (FOC). In Italy, we are seeking the positions and approval of its Government for specific component HQ locations and associated force structure changes. Subsequent to host-nation consultations and endorsement of planned changes, DoD will initiate the standard process for host-nation notification via the Overseas Force Structure Change (OFSC) process.

[¶6.](#) (S//REL ITA) PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS FOR BACKGROUND: DoD has developed estimates of the increase in the number of personnel that should occur as a result of the service component headquarters being established. These numbers are approximate and subject to change, but provide an order of

magnitude. Numbers include military, civilian, and identified contractor requirements: Army Component ( 176 in Vicenza, Italy); Navy element ( 46 in Naples, Italy). The Air Force, USMC, and theater special operations components will be established in Germany, with the following estimated personnel impact: 17th Air Force and 617th AOC ( 286 in Ramstein AFB, Germany); USMC component element ( 38 in Stuttgart, Germany); and the theater special operations component ( 151). When compared with overall personnel numbers at these existing facilities, these numbers do not constitute significant changes in personnel.

¶7. (U) OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no adverse operational implications of establishing these service component headquarters because they will consist primarily of staff, not assigned rotational forces.

¶8. (C) LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: Due to existing provisions contained in the 1954 Bilateral Infrastructure Agreement (BIA), consultations concerning the establishment of USAFRICOM components are required. Article 2 of the BIA states, "The Government of the United States obligates itself to utilize the installations agreed upon exclusively in order to carry out its NATO responsibilities and, in any case, not to use them for warlike purposes unless pursuant to NATO dispositions or by agreement with the Italian Government."

¶9. (U) SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS: Post may draw on the points below in consultations with GOI.

-- (C//REL ITA): We are seeking approval to reassign forces already present on your territory to establish service component headquarters for USAFRICOM. USAFRICOM is scheduled to reach full operational capability as a Unified Command on September 30, 2008. Identifying and establishing its service component headquarters are essential elements in achieving this milestone.

-- (C//REL ITA): We are seeking to establish USAFRICOM's Army and Navy component command Headquarters in Italy. The Army plans for the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) in Vicenza to perform the duties of the USAFRICOM Army component. Converting SETAF into a USAFRICOM component headquarters is part of the natural progression of the U.S., continuing efforts to realign global defense posture by developing strengthened presence and capabilities "South and East" in Europe. This adaptation supports shared security interests in Africa and Alliance programs, such as the Mediterranean Dialogue, and does not preclude cooperation with Allied forces or within current Alliance programs. SETAF's manpower would grow incrementally to approximately 400 personnel through October 2009 or later as a result of this change. This would include retention of the 13 Italian officers currently in the headquarters.

-- (C//REL ITA): The U.S. Navy plans to dual hat Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe as the naval component commander for both the U.S. European Command and the U.S. Africa Command.  
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